1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 3a,

Economic Background

AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

311 In 1939, Estonia had 1,000,000 hectares of arable land and 1.7 million hectares of natural meadowland and pasture. At the same time, two-thirds of the Estonian territory belonged to the farmers and one-third to the government. The types of land were as follows:

	Percentage of total area
Arable land	35.1
Meadows	29.3
Pastures	21.9
Forests	5.9
Moors, bogs, etc.	7.8

The counties with the largest arable areas and with the best land are: Viljandimaa, Tartumaa, Valgamaa, Võrumaa, Petserimaa and

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

311 Järvamaa. There are large areas of lowlands in Estonia and about one-third of the arable land needs drainage. Lack of capital was the [312] chief handicap of the Estonian farmers which prevented them from carrying out proper drainage work individually. World War I, the collapse of czarist Russian currency with the Russian Revolution, and the War of Liberation ate up the nation's bank savings. In independ- 659 312 ent Estonia the government came to help the farmers in their drainage work; several rivers were deepened and ditches were dug. This aid was of great benefit to many farmers in their life-long struggle with the lowlands, while at the same time it increased the area under cultivation. In addition, a special fund was created by the government from which land improvement societies were entitled to borrow without